

Application No.: 10/715,385

Docket No.: N9460.0019

REMARKS

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowance of claims 1 and 3-7. Claims 2 and 6 have been amended. Claims 1-7 remain in the application.

The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for claim 2 under 37 C.F.R. 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Applicant respectfully submits that all the embodiments of claim 2 are supported by the specification. With respect to "a plurality of said containers for storing buffer solution," antecedent basis can be found beginning at page 8, line 25 of the specification, which reads "*a plurality of buffers* 1 are provided and a pump equipped with a low-pressure gradient function and capable of selecting a buffer is employed" (emphasis added). The existence of a plurality of buffers would indicate a plurality of containers for storing the buffer solutions would be needed. With respect to "a plurality of said collection flow paths provided in response to the number of said containers for storing buffer solution," if there is a plurality of buffers then there must also be a plurality of collection flow paths. There is an optimum buffer solution for the synthesis of each particular sugar (see page 8, line 24-25). Therefore each buffer would need a separate collection flow path. With respect to "a collection flow path switch valve for feeding the solution coming out of said ultrafiltration column into one of said collection flow paths," antecedent basis can be found in Figure 1 which shows the "flow path switch valve," designated as 8. Figure 1 shows the embodiments included in both claims 1 and 2. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point on and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 2 has been amended to be dependent upon claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that with this amendment, claim 2 is now in condition for allowance.

Claim 6 has been amended to correct a typographical error.

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In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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